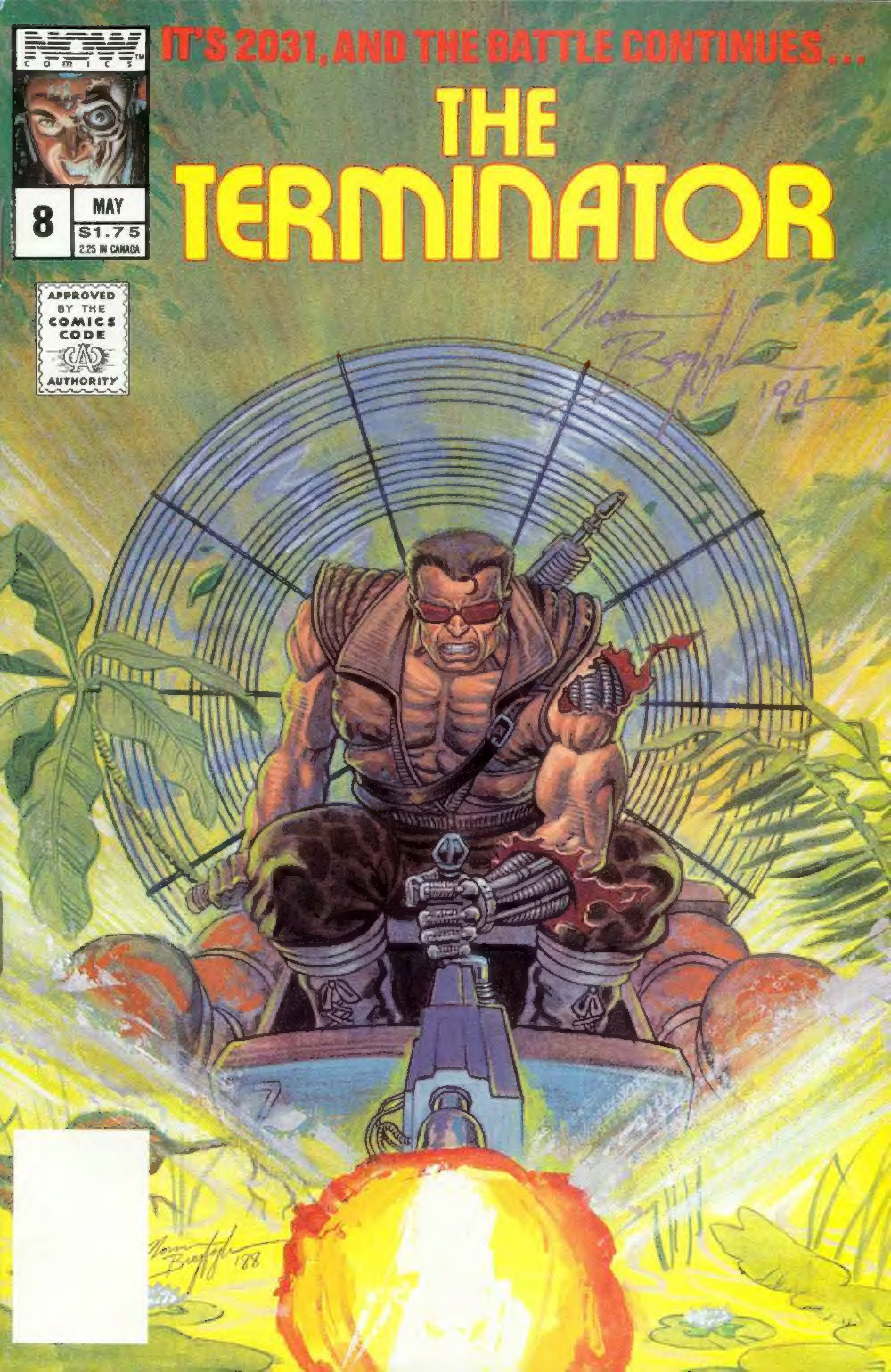
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THE TERMINATOR 8

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Tony Caputo
Publisher

AN ABANDONED TITANIUM MINING COMPLEX OFF WHAT WAS ONCE LAKE OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA.
MEN USED TO TEAR THE COLD METAL HEART OUT OF THE EARTH HERE. NOW MEN HIDE HERE FROM THE THINGS WITH COLD METAL HEARTS THAT COME FOR THEM.
BASINGER TITANIUM COMPANY a subsidiary of YOMINOKUM MINING CORPORATION
TO SARAH'S SLAMMERS, THIS IS "THIRD BASE", THEIR NEW HOME.
in the BELLY of the BEAST

COME ON IN, KONRAD. BUT WATCH YOUR STEP. THERE'RE ONLY LIGHTS AND POWER FOR ABOUT 200 YARDS INTO THE ENTRANCEWAY.

WE HAD DWYER, BORGE, SPECTOR, AND BRADY WATCHING THIS PLACE FOR US, MAKING SURE THAT SKYNET DIDN'T FIND IT.
SO THIS IS THIRD BASE. WHAT HAPPENED TO SECOND?
BOUGHT IT ALONG WITH THE REST OF MIAMI WHEN WE SET OFF THAT NUKE.
WHY WAS A BIG PLACE LIKE THIS YOUR THIRD CHOICE TO SET UP HOUSE?
IT'S HUNDREDS OF MILES UNDERGROUND, FLOODED TUNNELS, AND DOZENS OF HOLES TO THE SURFACE. WE HAVEN'T EXPLORED MOST OF IT.
IN OTHER WORDS, A REAL BITCH TO KEEP SECURE.
THEY FIX THAT STUPID ELEVATOR YET?
NOPE. JUST A SEC. I'LL HELP YOU WITH THAT.
IS THIS THE LAST OF THE MEDICAL SUPPLIES, ESSIE?
TWO MORE BOXES.
GOW, WE HAVE TO HAVE A TALK.
IT'S VERY IMPORTANT...
Umm, I WASN'T SNOOPING OR ANYTHING...
OF COURSE NOT. LET'S LEAVE THE LOVEBIRDS ALONE. LEAHY SAYS I SHOULD SHOW YOU HOW THE SUPPORT SYSTEMS WORK WHILE I SET THEM UP. INTERESTED?
COOL-!

ON THE FAR SHORE OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE...
TERMINATOR #DIX-190 WAITS WITH INHUMAN PATIENCE FOR THE HUNTER-KILLER TO ARRIVE.
WE HAVE THE MATERIALS YOU REQUESTED.
BUT SKYNET REQUIRES A REPORT. HAVE YOU LOCATED YOUR TARGETS?
DEFFARD IS A TACTICIAN FOR THE HUMAN RESISTANCE, A VALUABLE PRISONER. SKYNET WANTS HIM FOR INTERROGATION AND DISECTION.
GIVE ME WHAT I NEED AND I'LL BE THROUGH WITH HIM SOON ENOUGH.
I AM VERY CLOSE TO SARAH'S SLAMMERS.
I'LL TRANSMIT MY STATUS. WAIT FOR FURTHER ORDERS. NOW, GO!

OUTSIDE THIRD BASE, DWYER SITS FOR HIS SIXTH STRAIGHT HOUR OF WATCH.
NINE THOUSAND BOTTLES OF BEER ON THE WALL, NINE THOUSAND BOTTLES OF BEER...
DWYER, THIS IS LEAHY. THAT SENSOR WE BURIED OUT BACK HAS PICKED UP AN H-K ABOUT 50 KLIKS TO THE SOUTH-EAST. I DON'T THINK IT'S AFTER US, BUT STAY ALERT.
I ROGER THAT.
KONRAD, HOW'S IT GOING?
I BUILT A BASIC ANALOG COMPUTER TO TAKE OVER THE SUPPORT SYSTEMS. TIM HELPED.
IT'S FAR TOO "SIMPLE" FOR SKYNET TO DETECT OR CONTROL. IT CAN OPERATE THE ELEVATOR AND ANY OTHER SYSTEM I PATCH IT INTO.
HEY, ESSIE! WHAT'S WRONG?
I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU... CRYING OR SOMETHING.
IF I CAN'T TELL GOW, I CERTAINLY CAN'T TELL YOU!
YOU DO WHAT YOU WANT, YOU KNOW. BUT I AIN'T SO BAD AT LISTENING TO PEOPLE'S TROUBLES. GIVE ME A TRY.
Oh, DOYLE. MY WHOLE LIFE IS FALLING APART.

TERMINATOR #DIX-190 PACKED ITS GEAR INTO A WATERTIGHT DUFFLE BAG.
IT HOOKED A CABLE TO THE SATELLITE DISH OF ITS BOAT, THAT RAN INTO THE REEL OF MICROTHIN FIBEROPTIC WIRE ON ITS BELT.
THEN TERMINATOR #DIX-190 JUMPED INTO THE LAKE.
THE WATER WAS COLD AND DARK, THICK WITH MICRO-ORGANISMS. IT TOOK 0.07 SECONDS FOR ITS EYES TO ADJUST.
CAREFULLY SEARCHING ALONG THE LAKE BOTTOM, TERMINATOR #DIX-190 FOUND WHAT IT WAS LOOKING FOR.

THE TERMINATOR WAS A QUICK SWIMMER, CONSIDERING ITS GREAT SIZE.
SOMEHOW, IT SQUEEZED THROUGH A TUNNEL SO NARROW THAT IT WOULD HAVE TRAPPED MOST SMALLER MEN.
THE TUNNEL ENDED IN A BONE DRY CAVE OF SMOOTH MACHINE EMBEDDED ROCK.
INTERNATIONAL MINING CORP.
TERMINATOR *DIX-190 SEARCHED THE LOWEST TUNNELS OF THE MINE...
...UNTIL IT FOUND WHAT IT HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR.

THE CHIEF ENGINEER'S CONSOLE OF THE MINE'S COMPUTER CENTER--SKYNET HAD RESTORED FULL POWER TO THE LOWER LEVELS OF THE MINE, UNBEKNOWNST TO THE HUMANS WHO HUDDLED LIKE WEAKLINGS IN THE BATTERY-POWERED TUNNEL MOUTH.
JUST ONE PLUG WAS ALL IT TOOK TO PATCH THE ENTIRE PLACE INTO SKYNET'S SYSTEM.
AND WITH SLIGHT REPROGRAMMING...
tek tek tek
ALL SYSTEMS FUNCTIONAL
...THE BOWELS OF THE MINE QUAKED BACK TO LIFE WITH AN ELECTRONIC HUM. HOWEVER, NOW IT SERVED A NEW MASTER...
HMMMMMMMMM

ALL QUIET OUTSIDE THIRD BASE.
NOTHING HAPPENING.
I'M GOING BUGGY OUT HERE.
WISH THERE WAS AT LEAST A LITTLE EXCITEMENT.
BA-DOOM!

GOT A BIG BOGEY ON OUR FRONT DOORSTEP, SLAMMERS! DO YOU COPY?!
Skreiiinzri
THEY'RE JAMMING ME--!
KTOW! KTOW!
SKLAK!
NOW EN ROUTE TO LZ. HOW'S OUR TIME?
OUR MISSION CLOCK IS BEHIND MORE THAN SIX HOURS.
"SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, ONE OF OUR SATELLITES WAS LOST OVER SOUTH AMERICA.
"SKYNET HAD TO REPOSITION ANOTHER ONE TO SUPPLY THE MULTI-SPECTRAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS THAT LOCATED THE UNDERWATER TUNNEL FOR DIX-90 AS WELL AS THE ENTRANCE WE WILL USE."

WE'RE TRAPPED. THERE'S AT LEAST A HUNDRED TONS OF ROCK BETWEEN US AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
WE CAN GET OUT OF THIS. IF WE TAKE THE ELEVATOR ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE CENTRAL TUNNEL, WE CAN MAKE OUR WAY TO A CHIMNEY OR A MAINTENANCE SHAFT, THEN UP AND OUT.
THE POWER OUTAGE IS PROBABLY JUST IN EFFECT HERE AROUND THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE... FROM THE EXPLOSION. THE LIGHTS SHOULD STILL BE ON FURTHER IN.
I CAN RELAY THE POWER FROM OUR BATTERIES UP HERE DOWNSTAIRS IF WE SHOULD NEED IT.
THERE'S PROBABLY EARTH-MOVING EQUIPMENT DOWN THERE. MAYBE WE CAN DIG OUT.
COULD YOU HANDLE THAT EQUIPMENT, BORGE?
I'VE WORKED THE MINES ALL MY LIFE.
MAKING THE EARTH MOVE IS MY SPECIALTY.
SO I'VE HEARD.
KONRAD, I MAY NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE ELEVATOR. TIM, STICK WITH KONRAD. THAT'S IT. LET'S GET GOING, PEOPLE.

THE NEXT FEW MINUTES ARE SPENT CAUTIOUSLY MOVING THROUGH TOTAL DARKNESS.
LOOKS LIKE THE POWER'S OUT ALL THROUGH THIS LEVEL
SKYNET HIT US HARD. I HOPE DWYER MADE IT
THIP THIP THIP THIP THIP
SHWEE
THIS IS A NICE PLACE TO VISIT BUT I DON'T WANT TO LIVE HERE...
ELEVATOR
THE POWER IN THE ELEVATOR IS STILL ON. THAT'S A LITTLE WEIRD BUT THAT'S A BREAK FOR US. HOP IN.
BASEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL RUIN. ESCAPE TUNNELS. SURVIVAL GOING DOWN

WE'VE STOPPED.
ARE WE THERE, YET?
SIT TIGHT. I'M GOING UP TOP TO CHECK IT OUT
THE POWER'S BEEN CUT
BAD NEWS, PEOPLE. WE TAKE THE STAIRS.
HOW FAR?
"BEYOND THE RANGE OF MY LIGHT."
SHRNNNK
HAVE A CARE, EVERYONE. I DON'T THINK WE'RE ALONE DOWN HERE
RANGE 19M
MOVEMENT DOWN
9M/SEC
PRIORITY
TERMINATION
KTAK
KTAK
KTAK
Oh

ONE GUN! TEN O'CLOCK! DOYLE! SLAGER! COVER FIRE!
WHERE'S BORGE?
DOWN THE SHAFT.
I'LL COVER! THE REST OF YOU CLIMB DOWN AND OUT OF ITS SIGHT!
KONRAD, YOU TAKE THE OTHERS DOWN!
THEY'RE DOING A GOOD JOB KEEPING THAT TERMINATOR FROM SNIPING US OFF!
KTOW
KTOW
WE'RE COMING DOWN!
HURRY! I'VE LOCATED THE CONTROL BOX!
MOV NG INTO
SHAFT N PURSUIT OF
BLAM!
EAT THIS, TIN-HEAD!
THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE MASKED THE SOUND OF THE MOVING ELEVATOR..
.. UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.
Squiiish!

I'VE RELEASED THE MANUAL SWITCH. THE TRACKS LEAD TO THE OTHER END OF THE COMPLEX.
Oh, MAN! THERE GOES MY STOMACH!
JUST HOLD ON. LOOKS LIKE A NASTY CURVE UP AHEAD!
MINING DRONES! AND THEY'VE BEEN ACTIVATED!
SHROOSH
WARNING OSNIUM LASER NOW SET AT MAXIMUM. PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR SAFETY GOGGLES...
THEY'RE ALL AROUND US!
TZOW! TZOW!

PANK!
THESE CARS DON'T PROVIDE US WITH MUCH PROTECTION!
SLAMMERS, COVER! WE'RE VULNERABLE AT THE SIDES! JUST HOLD 'EM AND WE'LL ROLL BY SOON ENOUGH.
VRAK
"WE'RE DOING IT."
NOW FORGET THE SIDES! CONCENTRATE ALL FIRE FORWARD!
"THEY'RE TRYING TO PULL UP THE TRACKS!"
SHREW--!
TKOW!
BADOOOM!
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, ROBBY.

CONCENTRATING FIRE TO THE FRONT, HOWEVER, LEAVES THE SIDES VULNERABLE ONCE MORE...
BAK!
BAK!
BAK!
BAK!
THEY'VE SEVERED THE CAR FROM THE REST OF THE TRAIN!
KRASH!
Oh, MY GOD! SPECTOR!
I... I CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS... WELL, COME ON, YOU STINKING ROBOTS... FINISH THE JOB...
DAMN YOU!
BLAM
BLAM
WARNING: THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS INSIDE THE MINE IS A VIOLATION OF SAFETY REGULATIONS AND FEDERAL LAW
...PUNISHABLE BY A $10,000 FINE AND UP TO SIX MONTHS IN PRISON.
TZOW
TZOW
AAGH!

SPECTOR DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE, AND I'M NOT SO SURE *WE* DO! THOSE THINGS TREAD ALONG PRETTY DAMN FAST. THEY'RE GAINING ON US!
I WANT CONCENTRATED PLASMA FIRE ON THE TUNNEL CEILING BEHIND US! HIT IT *NOW*!
"MAYBE WE CAN CAUSE A CAVE-IN."
KRAAG!
SKRAASH
HANG ON, EVERYONE! THE TRACKS UP AHEAD LOOK LIKE THEY GO ALMOST *STRAIGHT DOWN*! THIS IS GOING TO BE ONE HELL OF A RIDE!

IF WE GO ANY FASTER, WE'LL FLY OFF THE TRACKS
AND IF I LOCK THESE BRAKES UP, WE'LL SPILL IT.
IF I COULD JUST SEE WHERE THEY'RE HEADED... Oh, NO!
"THE TUNNEL'S FLOODED."
THOSE DRONES WILL CUT THROUGH THAT CAVE-IN WITH THEIR LASERS LIKE IT WAS BUTTER. THEY MAY BE HERE ANY SECOND
WE DON'T HAVE THE FIREPOWER, THE COVER, OR THE HIGH GROUND TO MAKE A STAND HERE.
SO WHAT DO WE DO?
WE GO SWIMMING

THEY HAVE TO HOLD THEIR BREATH A LONG TIME.
AND SOMEHOW MANEUVER THROUGH THE COLD WATER ENCUMBERED WITH THEIR FULL GEAR
VISIBILITY IS BARELY TWICE ARM'S LENGTH.
IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN. AND WHEN THEY GET TO THE BOTTOM...
...THEY DISCOVER THAT, BENEATH ROCK AND CORRODED GIRDER, THERE IS ALMOST NO CHANCE TO GET OUT ALIVE.
ALMOST NONE, BUT JUST ENOUGH.

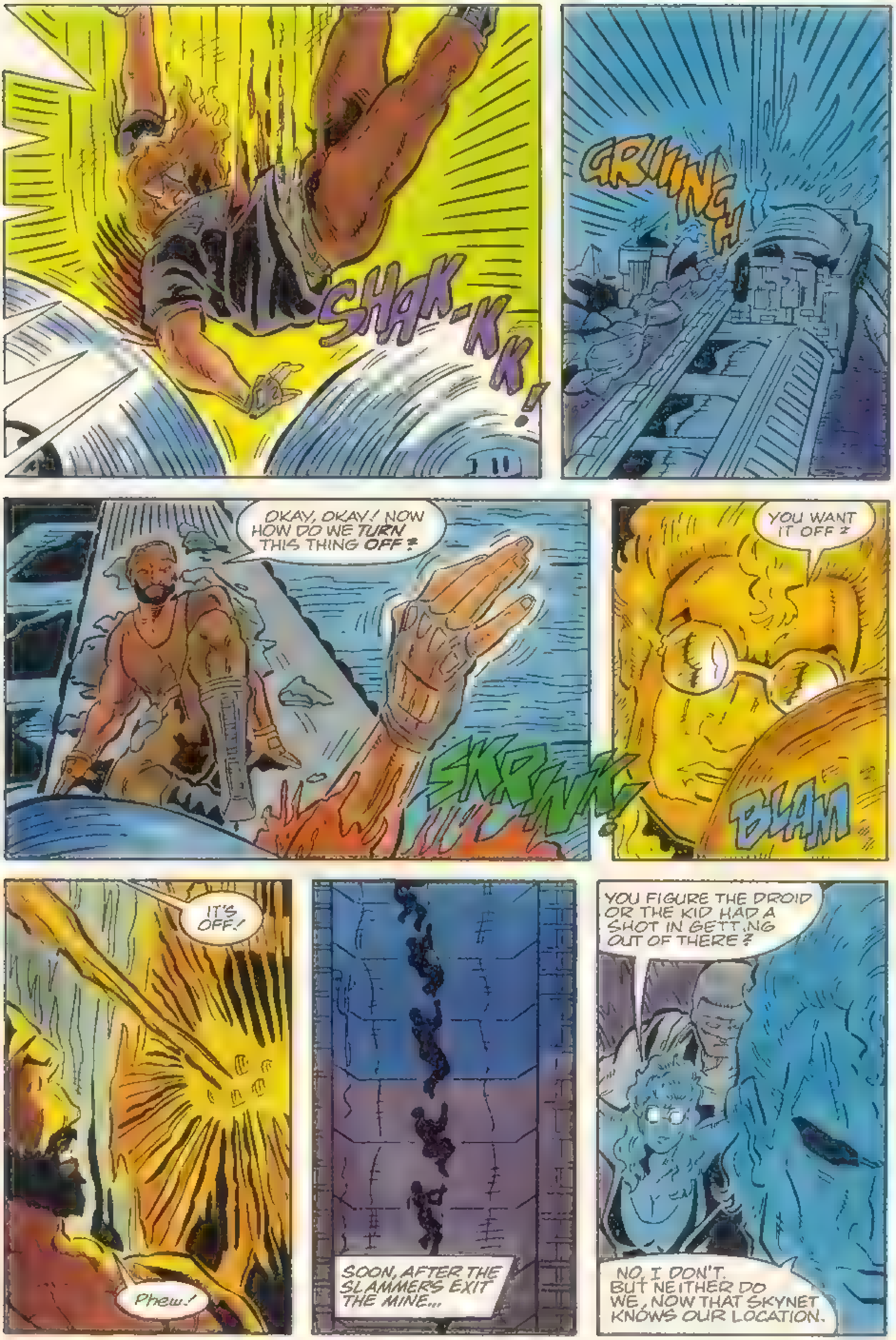
AT THE END THERE IS AIR FOR THEIR TIRED LUNGS. AND SOMETHING ELSE...
TERMINATOR!!
COMMANDER LEAHY, IT'S THE END OF THE LINE!
...FOR YOU, AND FOR SARAH'S SLAMMERS!
BRAT ATAT AKOW
BRADY'S MIND LET'S OUT A SILENT SCREAM IN THE LAST INSTANT BEFORE OBLIVION

IT'S A 1000 SERIES! WE HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF EVADING IT, THEN ENGAGING IT.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF BRADY.
I'LL COVER US.
THE LIGHTS'RE OUT DOWN THIS WAY MAYBE WE CAN LOSE HIM.
HEY, MY LEG'S CAUGHT.
REESE, TIM BROTHER OF REESE, KYLE KNOWN ASSOCIATE OF CONNER, JOHN. TERMINATE ON SIGHT.
THAT'S IT. THAT'S RIGHT.
JUST COME A LITTLE BIT CLOSER..
JOIN YOUR BROTHER

GO AHEAD. DO IT
KWUMP!
GET UP. I WANT TO SEE HOW WELL YOU'RE MADE.
BRAP!
Ughn

HE'S STANDING ON A LOOSE PLANK. THERE MUST BE A SHAFT UNDERNEATH HIM.
MAYBE I CAN HELP STEP INTO IT.
KRASK
AAAAAAA!
KONRAD, I DROPPED THE PIN.
GET DOWN!
KA-BOOM!
SOUNDS LIKE HE GOT KONRAD AND REESE WE'D BETTER HURRY IF WE'RE GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE.

FOR THE SLAMMERS, ESCAPE IS JUST ONE CONVEYOR BELT CLIMB AWAY. ALL CHALLENGES MET, ALL OBSTACLES OVER-COME...
EXCEPT...
...FOR...
...ONE...
WE GOT A TERMINATOR AT THE TOP OF THE TOWER!
THIS CONVEYOR BELT... IT'S STARTING TO MOVE BACKWARDS... TOWARDS THE ROCK CRUSHER
DOYLE, TAKE HIM!
NO SWEAT!


SHAK-KK!
CRUNCH
OKAY, OKAY! NOW HOW DO WE TURN THIS THING OFF?
YOU WANT IT OFF?
SKRUNK!
BLAM
IT'S OFF!
Phew!
SOON, AFTER THE SLAMMERS EXIT THE MINE...
YOU FIGURE THE DROID OR THE KID HAD A SHOT IN GETTING OUT OF THERE?
NO, I DON'T. BUT NEITHER DO WE, NOW THAT SKYNET KNOWS OUR LOCATION.

WHILE BACK IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST...
krikk—skrikk
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH. GOOD THING THEY MADE YOU REAL STRONG, TOO.
LET'S HURRY. MAYBE WE CAN STILL CATCH UP TO THE OTHERS.
AND DEEPER STILL...
I WON'T STOP UNTIL SARAH'S SLAMMERS ARE DEAD.
TO BE CONTINUED...

TERMINAL DATA

And don't forget, next month will be the first issue written by Ron Fortier. Having seen what Ron has planned for the next three issues, including the anniversary issue, you'd be crazy to miss it.

Dear Gators,

Your new series, THE TERMINATOR, is great! The art work is okay and the story line is great. The cover art is great, especially that of #1 and #4. I think the cover of #4 was the best of the first four. Please compliment Ken Hall for me. That is one of the best covers I've seen in a while. I'm looking forward to seeing more of his artwork. Well, as I said before, the TERMINATOR series is great and I'll keep collecting it. Keep up the good work. You're doing a good job for a new company. Till later.

Branson Everett
RT 2 Box 252
Dry Prong, LA
71423

Just you wait! The stories and artwork are going to blow you away. I don't want to give away any secrets, but many wishes are going to be granted within the next four issues.

Dear Terminators,

I read issue #4 and I love it. The TERMINATORS are great. Even my friends like the Terminators and they just looked at the pictures of issue #4. I would like to see a Terminator go to Russia in the future. You should make a Terminator fight Ninja Robots! I have some questions.

1. What started the war?
2. Why are there no armies to fight the Terminators?
3. Make a comic on how the Terminators were formed.
3. Why don't you make a Terminator go back into time like the movie?

Please respond
Jeremy Sumrall
PO Box 99
New Waverly, TX
77358

PS Let a Terminator be killed.

Jack pot, Jeremy! Your dreams are all going to come true and all of your questions will soon be answered. Just hang tight.

NOW Comics,

Excellent! Magnificent! Great Stuff! I have read and saved (in perfect condition) the first four TERMINATOR comics, and I am continuing to do so until the comics stop (which I hope they don't). I want to congratulate the artists for the supurb covers and the subscription blanks on the back! Don't change a thing!

By the way, bring back Sarah's Slammers. I would like to see an issue where the Slammers run into another gator fighting team, then join up and storm Skynet headquarters. I love action! You're looking good.

Troy Thompson
Ponca City, OK

I can't take it anymore! Okay, coming up, we'll see Konrad fight a gator, and we'll see Skynet. But for heaven's sake, keep it under your hat!

Dear NOW Comics,

I am a fan of your comics, and I love the graphics!!! I am writing to you about one specific comic (THE TERMINATOR!). It's great, the graphics, the plot, the scenery, everything is great in it! About the only thing I can say is you're doing a great job. I have every one so far and they are the best comics I've ever read!!

Chris Crane
PO Box 1383
Temecula, CA
92390

Hello, Katherine,

As you see, I read the letter columns and I know you are not Tony. You say you need a title for the letters pages: no problem. I am an ideas person. Answer: "TERMINAL DATA"

Four reasons why:

1. They are Terminators. Meeting one is a terminal experience, for humans.

2. Being a machine, they would relish a computer terminal.

3. Machines don't get mail, they receive store, index and cross-reference all in coming data.

4. To know, to understand, to be truly informed, is to be open to all available data. i.e. the readers' letters and to your replies.

Hope it sounds good to you; it did to me, so I sent it. Keep up the really fine work. Happy Holidays!

Larry Dishman
415 N. Clinton
Olathe, KA
66061

Say, I really like the sound of that, and I think it's the best one to date. Tell you what, I'll see what I can do about getting it uptop.

Dear NOW,

After looking over the first six Terminators, as well as other NOW titles, I've just realized that you print some of the best cover art out today. It's clear to see that NOW wants to expand comic art to a higher level. Great covers, free posters and more, prove this.

OK--Let's talk TERMINATOR now... #6 "Goin' Back to Miami", aka "Give That Terminator a hand" was interesting. A Terminator with a plasma rifle and an alligator with teeth. What a mix. Over all, I liked it, right down to the KISS and ACE FREHLEY tee shirts. What a year, not only did I just happen to meet these two bands in 1988, but i also started having a rendezvous every month with a Terminator. Makes life worth livin'...

Chris Obert
20 S. Porter ST
Bradford, MA
01835

PS How about the name, "Termination Notice" for your letter page?

Gee, I thought I was the only Kiss fan left in the world, well, myself and Mr. Tenney, of course. Believe me, Chris, there is more wacky violence on the way.

Dear NOW,

I collect 10 different series, and I haven't missed an issue. But of all the series that I collect, THE TERMINATOR is my favorite. I think the stories and the battle scenes are great! I thought issues #4 and #5 were excellent! Is it possible to answer these two question for me?

Who came up with the idea for the TERMINATOR comic? And is it possible to add a little more detail to the pictures? I think more detail would improve the art and the comic. Well, keep up the excellent work!

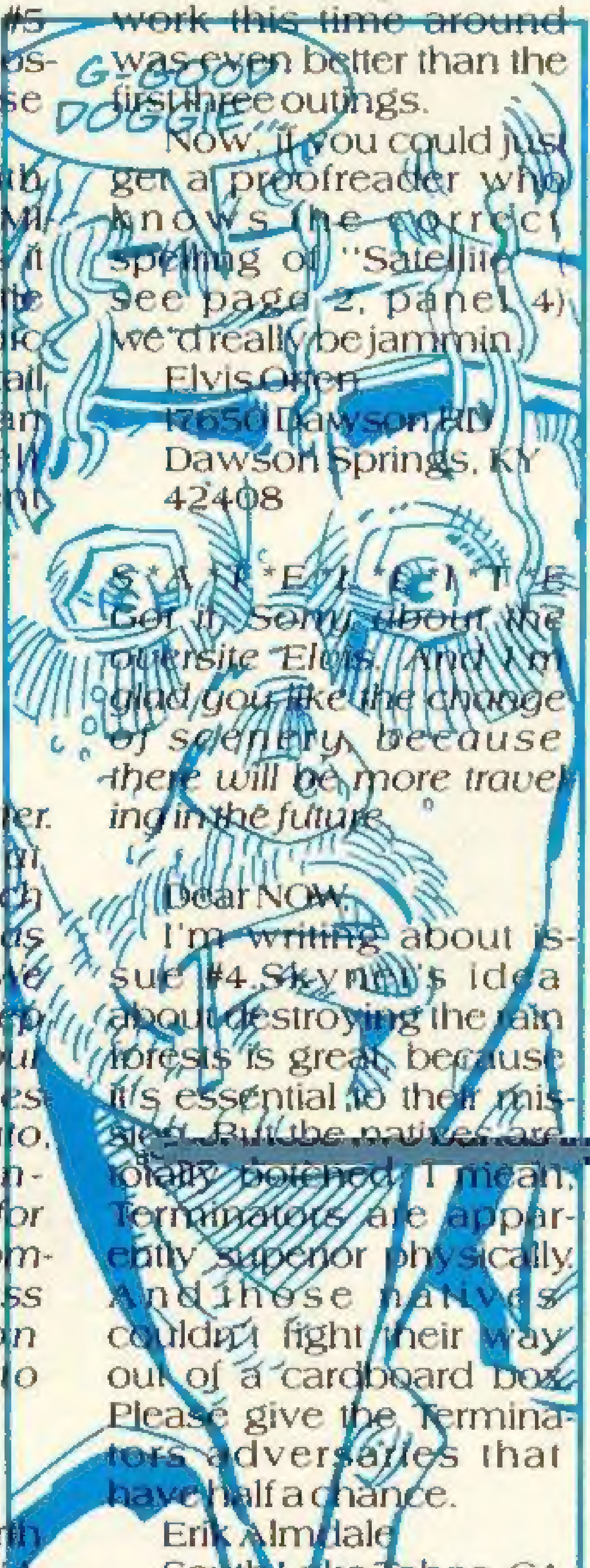
Your biggest fan,
Shane Dewalt
508 E. Linden ST
Fleetwood, PA
19522

Thanks for the letter. It's good to hear that people put just as much energy into collecting as we do in producing. We will most definitely keep up the high status of our work. As for your questions, Mr. Tony Caputo, Publisher, Editor-in-Chief, is responsible for the obtaining of this comic lisence. And I'll pass on your suggestion about more detail to Thomas.

Hey -

Just finished the forth issue of the TERMINATOR, and it really impressed me. It surprised me when I first opened the book up and was confronted with new people I'd never seen before. And in a new locale, as well. But after I read the first few pages, I really started to enjoy it.

I like the idea of introducing new places and people into the world wide skirmish with the Terminators and, if handled correctly, this new tangent could kick this book into a state of terminal overdrive.



And I thought the artwork this time around was even better than the first three outings.

Now, if you could just get a proofreader who knows the correct spelling of "Satellite" (see page 2, panel 4) we'd really be jammin.

Elvis Oten
17650 Dawson RD
Dawson Springs, KY
42408

*S*A*T*E*L*L*I*T*E Got it. Sorry about the oversite Elvis. And I'm glad you like the change of scenery, because there will be more traveling in the future.*

Dear NOW,

I'm writing about issue #4. Skynet's idea about destroying the rain forests is great, because it's essential to their mission. But the natives are totally botched. I mean, Terminators are apparently superior physically. And those natives couldn't fight their way out of a cardboard box. Please give the Terminators adversaries that have half a chance.

Erik Almdale
South Lake Tahoe, CA

ON PERFECT COMPUTERS

Reflections by Ron Fortier.

Garbage in, garbage out.

Sound familiar to you? If it does, then somewhere in your life's expriences, you attended a formal introductory class in computer science. That's what I did, nearly six years ago, when the little boxed doohickeys were still relatively unknown toys on the cultural scene. I distinctly remember feeling very intimidated by these electronic gadgets that could ingest copious amounts of data and then vomit all of it right back at you in neat methodical programs. It was downright spooky.

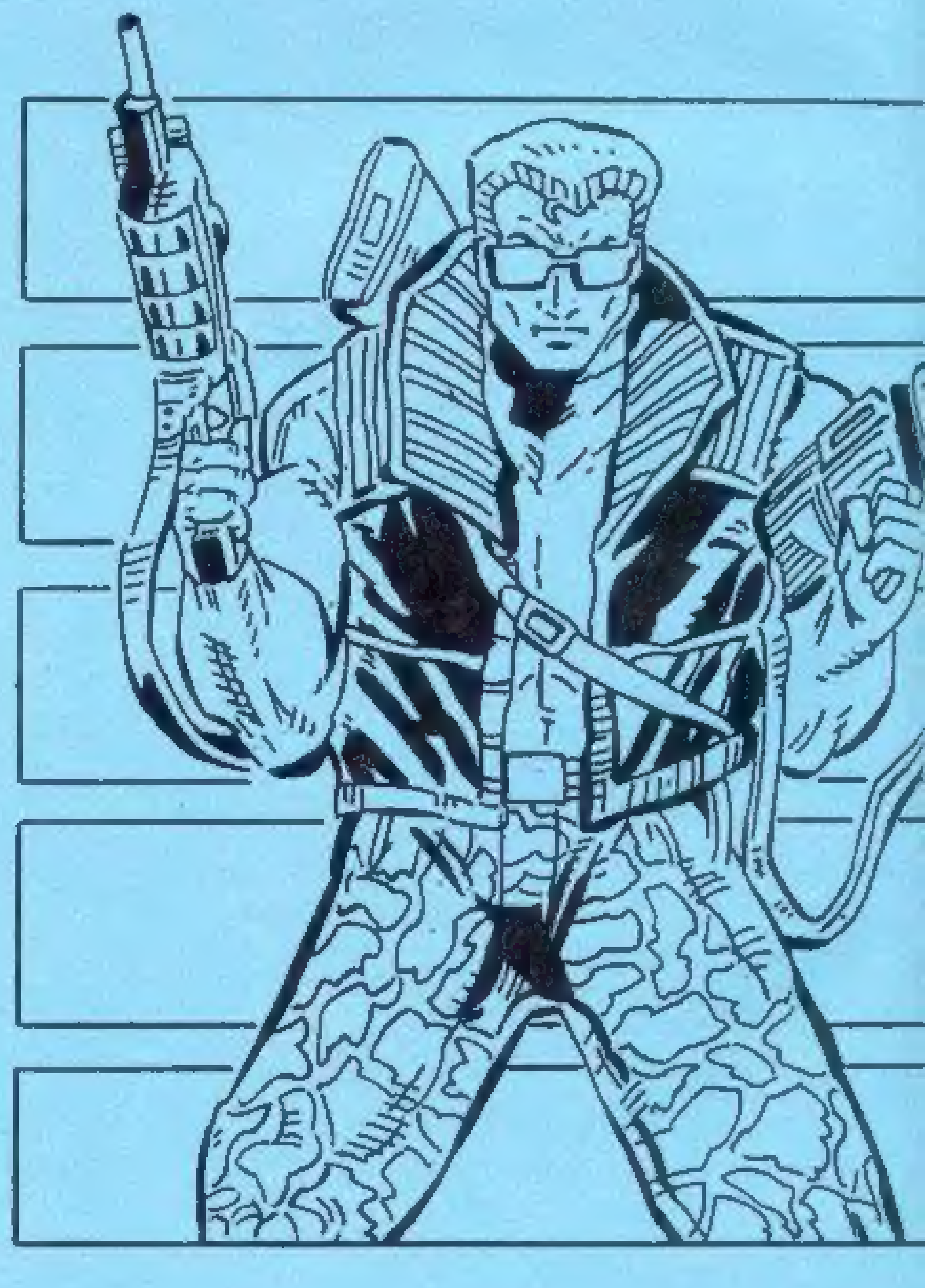
Until, that is, our rumbled old professor allayed our fears, by reminding us that computers are, in verity, the creations of mere mortals. Thus a computer, any computer, from your basic multi-billion dollar NORAD Defense System, to my chummy diminutive PC (personal computer, to the uninitiated) can only be as brilliant as the people who program it. i.e. you put garbage in, and bingo, you get garbage out. It is really quite elementary. It is also very logical. Another computerese type word.

Which brings me to a movie called THE TERMINATOR. The film sets forth the marvelous science-fiction premise that a super computer has somehow become aware of its own existence. It then decides to exterminate all human life from the face of the globe. Why? Because the computer, Skynet by name, sees humanity as imperfect and thereby, unworthy to rule.

The movie became a bighit. Lots of action and bizarre futuristic landscapes peppered with fascinating men and women locked in an endless death-struggle with the ultimate machine. The fans ate it up. At the same time, they routinely debated various aspects of the plot structure. One of the most often repeated criticisms to reach my ears, was based on the machine's supposed infallibility. It went something like this--How could the humans possibly win the war against a perfect thinking machine? Impossible, right? Of course, if you believe the basic assumption that perfection is possible. I do not.

Skynet is not perfect. It was made by imperfect beings, humans. After once spending two years as a college philosophy major, I defy anyone to convince me that something imperfect can create something perfect, i.e. without fault. Ergo, Skynet has faults, bugs, glitches or whatever else we might choose to call them. How would these imperfections affect Skynet's overall performance in its contest with mankind? Well, for one thing, it no longer is assured a guaranteed victory. Note I did not say it could not in the end triumph. What I said was, if you adhere to the rules of basic reality, it's still very much an open game, folks. Which is the core of drama, undetermined conflict.

I am fascinated by this conflict and hope, in the issues ahead, to delve deeper into the mysteries of Skynet and the whole Terminator world. I've some ideas of what kind of things we will encounter. I'm also positive there are some nasty surprises along the way, even I'm not ready for. I hope you will be as intrigued and join me in these adventures.



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